

**From:** Stennis  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 1:43am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support of the Microsoft Settlement that has been proposed. It is past time that this fiasco be put behind us. While I feel there was very little merit in the original suit, it is best that we do that which is necessary to remove this cloud and move forward. There is no doubt that all of this has contributed to the Nation's economic troubles and will continue to do so until it is resolved.

I am not a computer expert but we do have two computers which we use on a daily basis. On both of these computers we use Netscape. I hold a Ph.D. in economics so I have a little understanding of the economics involved. Netscape's and Sun's problem was that they had inferior products. While I use Netscape, it has many problems. It is not a matter Netscape sales because it tends to be a free good to anyone that will use it -- they make their money on all of the ads they flood one with. In our department we used Sun work stations but with the event of more powerful PC's, we found that the job could be done with less expensive hardware and without complication of using Unix.

The free market provides that those who can provide a product most efficiently will prosper and those who cannot compete will move on to other enterprises. What we are saying now is that we will penalize those do the job best and protect inferior products which cannot compete on a level playing field.

I should note that one part of the settlement I disagree with is the limitation of Microsoft's ability to to include Explorer with their operating system. A consumer should have the right to receive a product which has all of the features that he/she might want to use. One does not have to use Microsoft's features -- I could still use Netscape if I desired. But I do object to a court denying me the right to receive that which would be offered. I would like to be able to walk into the store and purchase a product which provided all of the features I might need. Any vendor should have the right to provide the same thing but they should not have the right to prevent someone else from doing so.

Look at this way. When I go in to purchase a car, I do not expect to receive a frame and a body and to be told that I must go to other venders to get my engine, my tires, my radio, etc.

In summary, let us get this behind us. The Justice Department and the self serving parties who filed this suit have done enough damage to the

economy, consumers, and the Microsoft.

Sincerely,

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